

HHB FIRES BDE. MEDICS KEEP BUSY PROVIDING TOP-NOTCH SERVICE.
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During the month of February, the Fires Brigade medics have continued to provide top notch medical support for the brigade and are increasing their responsibilities in the Iraqi theater. The Headquarters Battery medics provide for the medical needs of both the Brigade headquarters and 589th Brigade Support Battalion. We have over four hundred Soldiers on Camp Liberty and the medics are working hard to provide them the best care possible. In addition, these medics provided valuable medical training to nonmedical personnel in the Brigade. They taught a series of courses on a wide range of subjects. Some of the topics covered were mass casualty operations, trauma assessment, evacuation procedures, and the use of the improved first aid kit.

In addition to providing medical support on Camp Liberty, several of our medics also supported convoy operations. Staff Sgt. Chris Parks, Cpl. Saul Trevino, and Pfc. Dorje Mecca ride with the convoys from the headquarters battery and the 589th BSB to provide valuable medical support on missions outside Camp Liberty. Although convoy operations can be dangerous, they are the missions our medics volunteer for the most.

In the next month, the medics will begin working with local medical professionals. This is part of an overall transitional training program in Iraq. The goal is to train the local population to become independent of coalition forces. Training involves many different aspects of community support, with medical training being a key component. We will also begin sending medics to other medical facilities on Camp Liberty to increase our medics' scope of knowledge and provide support to understaffed facilities.

The medics in the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery continue their great medical support up in northern and western Iraq. They just completed a Combat Life Saver class where over twenty soldiers became Combat Lifesaver, CLS certified. Also, they are preparing to move into an improved facility at the end of this month; a facility which is closer to the soldiers and has increased treatment capabilities. Two medics, Spc. Russell Dragon and Spc. Christopher Santomo, recently relocated. One of Battery B's firing platoons moved to a new camp, and our medics moved with them. Wherever the Brigade has a presence, we want our medics there to take care of them.

Overall, this was a busy and productive month for the medics in the Fires Brigade. We appreciate all the support from back home and will continue to keep everyone updated on our status and progress in Iraq.



Spc. Larry Mellette (right) teaches a trauma assessment class to Headquarters Battery Soldiers. Pvt. Kristin Blair (left) plays the part of the patient. Headquarters Battery medics taught a series of medical classes during the first week of February.